

REMARKS

I. Introduction

In response to the pending Office Action, Applicants have incorporated the limitations of claim 7, 9 and 10 into independent claim 1. In addition, claim 1 has been further amended to overcome the § 112 rejections. Claims 7, 9 and 10 have been cancelled, without prejudice.

Applicants appreciate the indication of allowable subject matter recited in claims 7-8 and 9-10. In the pending Office Action, the Examiner stated that claims 7-8 and 9-10 would be allowable if rewritten to incorporate both the material for the conductive pattern and the material and thickness for the metal oxide layer (i.e., for NiO and ZnO) into the independent claim. As Applicants have incorporated claim 7, which contains a limitation directed toward the material for the conductive pattern, and claims 9 and 10, which contain limitations directed towards the material and thickness for the metal oxide layer (i.e., for NiO and ZnO), Applicants submit that independent claim 1 is allowable over the cited prior art. Furthermore, as claim 1 is the sole independent claim and as all pending dependent claims are dependent upon claim 1, Applicants submit that all currently pending claims are therefore allowable, an indication of which is respectfully requested.

Applicants also respectfully submit that the amendment to claim 1 to incorporate claims 7, 9 and 10 into claim 1 is not an admission by the Applicants that the rejection of claims 1, 3-6, 12 and 14 is proper.

II. The Rejection of Claims 12 And 14 Under 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 12 and 14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. It is alleged that it is structurally indefinite as to what “the conductive pattern is

exposed at the surface of the component” and “part of the conductive pattern and ...are exposed at the surface of the component” are referring to.

Applicants are unclear as to why these phrases have been deemed indefinite. Applicants are unsure as to how the phrases “the conductive pattern is exposed at the surface of the component” and “part of the conductive pattern and part of the substrate are exposed at the surface of the component” could be misinterpreted. In view of Figs. 2, 4 and 6-8, it is clear what the phrase “exposed at the surface, or part of the component” refers to. The figures show that the conductive pattern has a surface, on which the conductive pattern and the substrate are located. The claims also state that the conductive pattern and the substrate, or part thereof, are exposed at this surface.

Furthermore, the Examiner has provided no indication as to how the phrases are indefinite. Are the terms “exposed”, “surface” or “component” unclear? Is the Examiner unclear as to what “exposed at the surface” means? Perhaps the phrase “surface of the component” is unclear? Applicants have been given no guidance of how this perfectly clear phrase could be interpreted in any way but one. The Examiner merely says so. As such, Applicants respectfully request that if the Examiner maintains the current rejection over claims 12 and 14, that she please explain how the above recited phrases are unclear. Otherwise, Applicants respectfully request that the rejections be withdrawn.

III. Conclusion

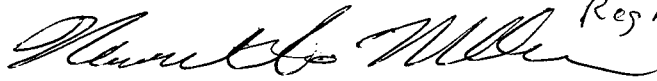
Having fully responded to all matters raised in the Office Action, Applicant submits that all claims are in condition for allowance, an indication of which is respectfully solicited.

Application No.: 10/541,321

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 500417 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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